

HEPATITIS A, ACUTE

Hepatitis A is an illness caused by the hepatitis A virus. It is characterized by abrupt onset of fever, malaise, nausea, abdominal discomfort, and fatigue, followed within a few days by jaundice. Severity of illness is highly variable and can be mild or asymptomatic in young children. Severity varies from person to person, but the mortality rate is low, ranging from 0.1% to 0.3%. The virus is transmitted person to person by the fecal-oral route. Poor environmental sanitation, poor personal hygiene, and close personal contact promote transmission. Transmission occurs sporadically in daycare centers. Common source outbreaks have been related to contaminated water, food contaminated by infected food handlers, raw and undercooked mollusks taken from contaminated water, and contaminated produce.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

?? IgM anti-HAV positive serology

Case Confirmation

Confirmed: A case that meets the clinical case definition and is laboratory confirmed or, for hepatitis A, a case that meets the clinical case definition and occurs in a person who has an epidemiologic link with a person who has laboratory-confirmed hepatitis A (i.e., household, daycare or sexual contact with an infected person during the 15-50 days before the onset of symptoms).

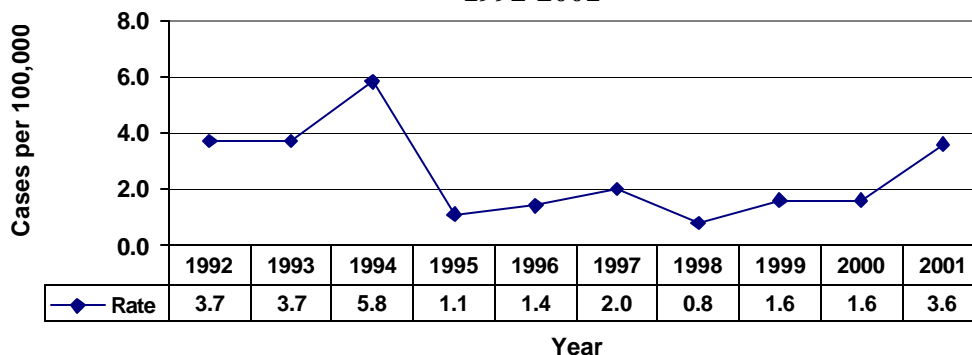
Epidemiology

Kentucky 2001	Rate per 100,000	U.S. Rate (2000) per 100,000
Cases 145	3.6	4.91

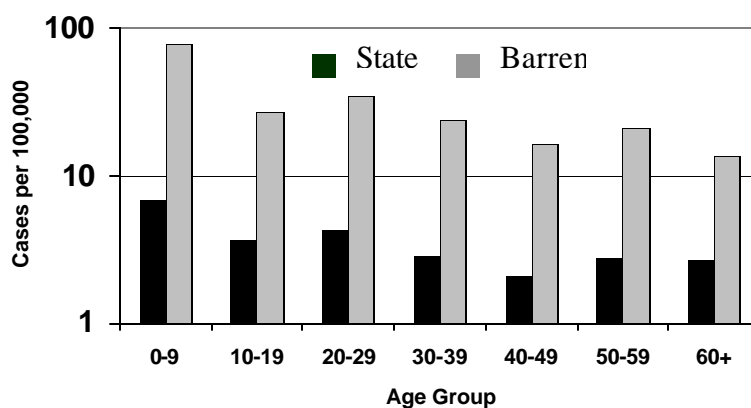
Cases by Gender

Female	81	3.9
Male	64	3.2

**Hepatitis A Incidence, Kentucky
1992-2001**



Hepatitis A Age Specific Incidence, State and Barren River District, Kentucky 2001

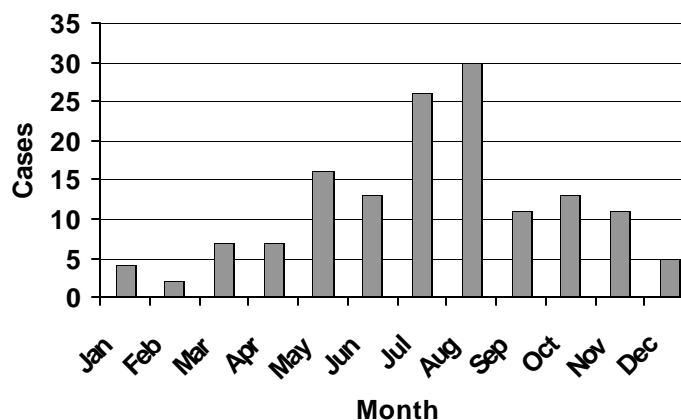


All age groups showed an increase in incidence in 2001 except for the 30-39 year group. The rate in the 0-9 year range increased the most from 1.5 cases (2000) to 6.8 cases per 100,000. Twenty-seven of the 37 cases in this age group were in the Barren River District. State rates more than doubled in the 10-19 year group, the 20-29 year

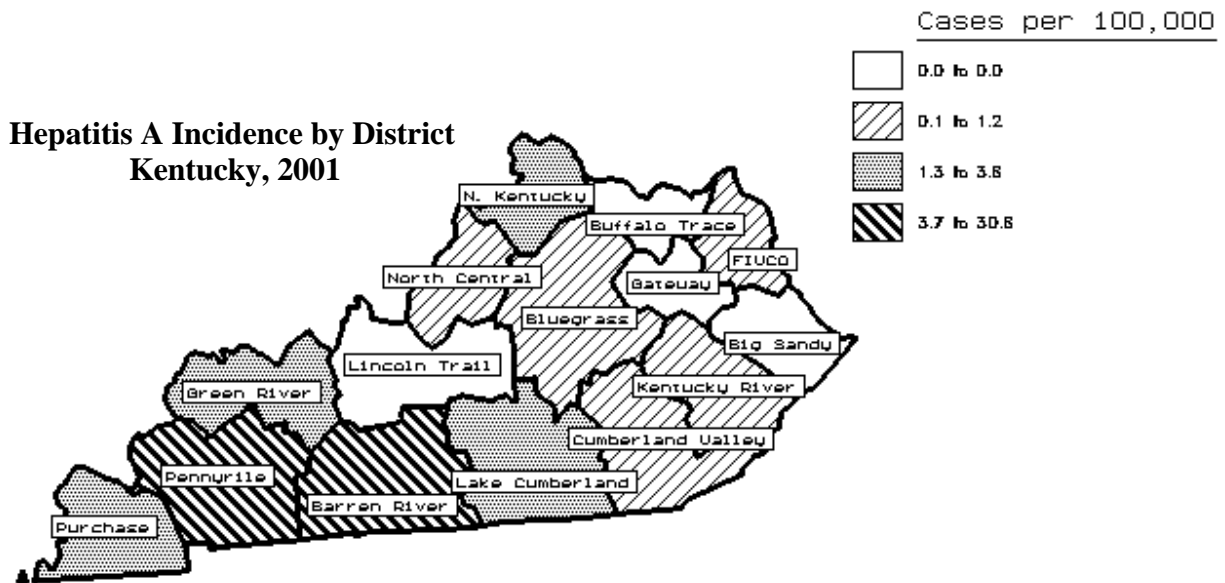
group, and the 60+ group for 2001. In the 60+ age group 12 of 18 cases were over 70 years of age. The reference graph above is on a logarithmic scale.

Hepatitis A Cases by Onset Month, Kentucky 2001

The peak months of July and August reflect the peak months for the outbreak that occurred in the Barren River District. The outbreak in the Pennyriple District occurred in May and June primarily.



Over half the cases (78) in 2001 occurred in the Barren River Area Development District (ADD). The incidence rate for Barren River ADD was 30.6 cases per 100,000. Fifty-eight of these cases were classified as part of an outbreak, being epidemiologically linked together. The Pennyrile ADD also experienced a higher rate with 8.8 cases per 100,000. Thirteen of the 19 cases in the Pennyrile District were outbreak related.



<u>District</u>	<u>Cases per 100,000</u>
Purchase	2.6
Pennyrile	8.8
Green River	2.9
Barren River	30.6
North Central	0.9
Northern Kentucky	3.6
Fivco	0.7
Kentucky River	0.8
Cumberland Valley	0.4
Lake Cumberland	2.1
Bluegrass	1.2